(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) The proposal of construction of a bridge linking Talaimannar and Dhanushkodi between Sri Lanka and India is at conceptual stage and therefore no further details can be given at this stage.

Collapse of bridge at NH-6 in West Bengal

1682. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 250 Ft. span of railway over bridge under construction by NHAI on NH-6 at Pakuria in Howrah District of West Bengal had collapsed on the 29th June, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the casualties, extent of damage and the financial loss; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the agencies responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) One span of road-over-bridge under construciton on National Highway-6 in West Bengal collapsed on 29th January, 2003, and not on 29th June, 2001.

(b) and (c) This span which was under construction collapsed due to the failure of the staging material. One person died and 4 persons got minor injuries. As per the agreement, the cost of restoring the damaged span and consequential repairs will be borne by the contractor. Preliminary enquiry report indicated that the collapse was due to the removal of some bracing by the contractors for their use in the adjoining span and weakening of foundation soil. Detailed reasons for failure and agencies responsible will be known only on receipt of the final report of the Committee.